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## Istook to Lead OK Delegation to China

*Washington, D.C.* – Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) announced today that he will lead a high-level delegation of Oklahoma business leaders to China at the invitation of the Chinese Ambassador. The trip will be the first Congressionally-led trade mission to China in the history of Oklahoma.

Istook accepted the invitation of Chinese Ambassador to the United States, Yang Jiechi, last week and has requested the assistance of the State Chamber, Oklahoma's Association of Business and Industry, in developing the itinerary and the delegation for the trip.

**“This is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen and expand the already well-established relationship between Oklahoma and China,”** said Istook. **“China is the United States’ fourth largest trading partner. The untapped potential for selling Oklahoma goods and services is enormous. I’m pleased to be able to lead this trip as both the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Treasury and as a representative of the state of Oklahoma.”**

CEO & President of the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce Richard P. Rush commented, **“The State Chamber of Oklahoma is honored to be asked to assist Congressman Istook in developing an itinerary of important economic development opportunities for Oklahoma companies. We commend him for providing his leadership to the continuing mission of opening markets for Oklahoma businesses to expand their sales to China. Oklahoma has enjoyed a ‘sister state’ relationship with the Gansu Province in China since 1985, and Congressman Istook’s visit will strengthen that relationship and increase job creation in Oklahoma.”**

The trip is currently scheduled for early November. A tentative itinerary includes visits with numerous Chinese business and government officials and at least half a dozen Chinese cities, including Beijing, Shenyang, Lanzhou, and Shanghai. The stated purpose of the trip is to open markets in China for Oklahoma companies to better compete.